

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-10 CU-02 /069 W

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R 240630Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0441

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 11804

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT ACTION JAKARTA FM SURABAYA 22 SEPT  
BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION:

QUOTE

SURABAYA 0592

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ID

SUBJECT: EAST JAVA REACTION TO SUMITRO STATEMENT

REFS: A. JAKARTA 11323

B. SURABAYA 0621 (23 DECEMBER 74)

FOR RETRANSMISSION TO DEPARTMENT

1. NOT MUCH ATTENTION WAS PAID HERE TO THE SUMITRO STATEMENT EXCEPT  
BY THE STUDENTS WHO--AS REF B. INDICATES--STILL CONSIDER HIM AS  
SOMETHING OF A HERO.

2. BRAWIJAYA DIVISION/PROVINCIAL GOVT NEWSPAPER BHIRAWA FRONT-PAGED  
SUMITRO STATEMENT AND "CLARIFICATION" ISSUED BY HANKAM A FEW DAYS  
LATER, UNDER HEADLINE: "INTRIGUE AND MANIPULATION ARE NOT A PART  
OF INDONESIAN CHARACTER." STUDENT WEEKLY MINGGUAN MAHASISWA, WHOSE  
EDITOR AGIL ALI HAS JUST RETURNED FROM TOUR OF SEA COUNTRIES FUNDED  
BY GOVERNOR NOER, FRONT-PAGED KEY POINTS OF STATEMENT. MINGGUAN  
COMMENTED THAT SUMITRO IS A "VERY POPULAR GENERAL" WHO, UNLIKE OTHER  
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RETIRED GENERALS, "DOES NOT ENGAGE IN BUSINESS AFFAIRS." INSTEAD,

MINGGUAN SAID, SUMITRO PLAYS GOLF--"OCCASIONALLY WITH THE PRESIDENT"--WRITES HIS MEMOIRS, AND IS "OFTEN SEEN AT THE ISTANA NEGARA." COMMENTING ON THE "INTRIGUE AND MANIPULATION" PREFERENCE, MINGGUAN ASKED: "WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE MEANT BY THAT?" OTHER NEWSPAPERS AVOIDED STATEMENT.

3. A FEW NAVY FRIENDS WITH WHOM I DISCREETLY RAISED SUBJECT EXPRESSED BEWILDERMENT AT SUMITRO'S INTENTIONS, AND ONE REFERRED TO HIM AS "A TIGER WITH NO TEETH." ANOTHER SOURCE, HOWEVER, SAID STUDENTS WERE INTERPRETING "INTRIGUE AND MANIPULATION" REFERENCE AS SLAP AT SUHARTO, NOT MURTOPO. EVIDENCE FOR THIS VIEWPOINT CAN BE FOUND IN SAME MINGGUAN MAHASISWA ISSUE, WHICH ALSO CARRIED REMARK THAT "NATIONAL CHARACTERISTIC WHICH BUILDS A PERSONALITY CULT AROUND A PRESIDENT MUST ALSO BE ELIMINATED."

4. FROM TIME TO TIME OVER PAST YEAR, I HAVE HEARD SIMILAR REMARKS FROM MEMBERS OF EDUCATED ELITE, INCLUDING SENIOR OFFICIALS, WHO ARE MILDLY RESENTFUL THAT SEMI-FEUDAL AURA OF INFALLIBILITY STILL SHIELDS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FROM CRITICISM DISPUTE MODERNIZATION OF OTHER INDONESIAN ATTITUDES. ALTHOUGH NO ONE IS TALKING ABOUT IT, SUMITRO'S STATEMENT IN A SENSE PROBABLY PLAYS TO THIS SENTIMENT IN EAST JAVA.

HOWLAND  
UNQUOTE  
NEWSOM

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## Message Attributes

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